new context arises here. I would like the Minister to answer these questions.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, through you, I want to know one thing from the hon. Members. Do they want higher price or lower price?

DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI: We want quality drugs for a fair price to be supplied to the consumers *{Interruptions).*

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: We are going to supply quality drugs at a lesser price. You are asking for a higher price *(Interruptions).*

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN RED-DY: He is avoiding every question**.** We have already wasted ten minutes and he has not given any correct answer**.** *(Interruptions)* .

SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: We want the consumers to get the best quality drugs available at a cheaper price.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He says that the Drug Controller says, it is a good quality drug. Now, I cannot do anything.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister what is the difficulty in importing Rifampicin or any other similar drug on an open tender system so that the lowest bidder gets the order for a product of the same quality and what are the main factors other than quality and availability influencing the Government's decision on the import of such drug.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, after verifying quotations from all the countries, the lowest bidder is China and we are importing it from China.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And it is of quality?

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Yes Sir. *(Interruption).*

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW-DHURY: I think, the Chairman is invoking a law of Preventation of Cruelty to a Minister. He cannot answer anything and you are protecting him.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a special soft corner for people from Andhra Pradesh.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOW' DHURY: Thank you, Sir. But don't bring me under the same umbrella. *(Interruption)* **.**

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: ... but please have a little pity on the Minister also. You protect the Minister and not these Members *(Interruptions).* Mr. Ven-gal Rao is .correctly replying to you *(Interruptions).*

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN RED-DY: Mr. A.G. Kulkarni, you are the seniormost Member of this House. *(Interruptions).* They are providing sub-standard drugs. Do you want to put the lives of people in danger by supplying substandard drugs?

(Interruptions)

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: Are you a doctor or are you an inspector? You are nobody.

Royalty on Oil and Natural Gas extracted from Bombay High

62. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra has requested the Central Government for payment of royalty on oil and natural gas exracted from Bombay High and similar off-shore structures near Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, what action. Central Government have taken or propose to taken

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Prarriod Mahajan.

thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment of royalty on production of mineral oil is governed by the provisions of the Oil Fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 and the Petroleum and Natural Gas Rules, 1959, under which royalty on off-shore production of oil and gas is payable only to the Central Government.

श्री प्रमोद महाजनः सभापति जी, मुंबई के समुद्र तटीय क्षेत्रों से प्राप्त तेल और गैस पर रायल्टी के संबंध में महाराष्ट्र की जनता की ओर से बार बार मांग की जा रही है और दुर्भाग्य से आज भी केंद्रीय सरकार ने अपने ही कानून की आड़ में एक बार फिर उस मांग को ठुकराया है। महोदय, हम संघीय राज्य व्यवस्था में रहते हैं। इसमें प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर किसी एक राज्य सरकार का अधिकार नहीं होता बल्कि उस पर केंद्र का भी अधिकार होता है। इसी तरह उस पर केवल केंद्र सरकार का अधिकार नहीं होता बल्कि राज्य सरकार का भी होता है। यही व्यवस्था न्याय संगत और उचित होती है। इसके अभाव में केंद्र और राज्य में संघर्ष और कटुता बढ़ती है और इसके कारण आर्थिक संसाधनों के बारे में केंद्र और राज्यों में विवाद का निर्माण होता है। इसका निपटारा करने के लिये हमने एक शास्त्र-सिद्ध व्यवस्था विकसित करने का प्रयास किया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वर्तमान कानून की आड़ में न छिपते हुए आर्थिक संसाधनों की तरह ही प्राकृतिक संसाधन का केंद्र और राज्यों के बीच न्याय संगत और उचित बंटवारा हो। इसलिए किसी आयोग का गठन कर इस बंटवारे के बीच शिकायतें यदि हों उस पर केन्द्रीय सरकार विचार करेगी, इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था बनाएगी? यह मेरा प्रश्न है।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्तः सभापति महोदय, मेरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि कोई कानून आड़ में छिपने के लिए नहीं होता है उसका पालन करने के लिए होता है और हम कानून का पालन कर रहे हैं। जब यह सदन या संसद कानून में परिवर्तन करेगी हम उसका पालन करेंगे। वर्तमान व्यवस्था यह है, हम बाध्य हैं।

श्री प्रमोद महाजनः सभापति जी, मैंने जैसे कहा कि कानून की आड़ का अर्थ केवल यह होता है कि प्रदेशों के ऊपर अन्याय हो रहा है तो इस कानून में परिवर्तन करने की व्यवस्था आप कर सकते हैं और उस प्रकार का किसी प्रकार का न्याय-अन्याय का जवाब न देते हुए क्योंकि बना हुआ कानून है इसलिए हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं इसको कहते हैं कानून की आड़ में छिपना। यह मांग केवल महाराष्ट्र की नहीं है, आसाम की भी है, आन्ध्र की भी होगी, सौराष्ट्र की भी होगी। तो महाराष्ट्र ले कर सौराष्ट्र तक जितनी मांगें हैं उनके बारे में धृतराष्ट्र की जो भूमिका है वह केन्द्र सरकार निभाने का प्रयास कर रही है। मुझे लगता है कि इस प्रकार प्राकृतिक संसाधनों से सम्पत्ति अर्जित करने के लिए राज्य सरकार पर मूलभूत व्यवस्थाएं निर्माण करने का भार सहन करना पड़ता है। जैसे अभी मुम्बई के समुद्र तटीय क्षेत्रों में अगर तेल और वायु मिलती है तो उसके लिए जमीन, बिजली, पानी, आवास और यातायात आदि सारी व्यवस्थाएं राज्य सरकार को करनी पड़ती है, मुम्बई महापालिका को करनी पड़ती है और रायल्टी पूरी की पूरी केन्द्रीय सरकार उठा ले जाती है। इसलिए मैं मन्त्री महोदय से फिर पूछना चाहूंगा कि इस वर्तमान कानून को बदल कर यह जो राज्यों की क्षति होती है उन पर अन्याय होता है वह अधिकार उनको फिर वापिस दिलाने के लिए क्या कानून में परिवर्तन ला कर महाराष्ट्र सरकार की इस रायल्टी की मांग को स्वीकार किया जाएगा।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्तः मान्यवर, मेरा नम्र निवेदन यह है कि तेल और प्राकृतिक गैस उद्योग एक राष्ट्रीय उद्योग है इसको क्षेत्रीय परिपेक्ष्य में नहीं देखा जा सकता। दूसरा यह है कि मान लीजिये हमारे समुद्र में कहीं कोई चीज़ निकलती है तेल निकलता है, गैस निकलती है तो ठीक है तो वहां की प्रदेश सरकार को कुछ प्रबन्ध करना पड़ेगा लेकिन प्रदेश की सरकार को उससे लाभ भी होता है। मैं अपने प्रदेश का वित्त मन्त्री रह चुका हूं। मैं तो रायल्टी मांगने की बजाय वह सुविधा जरूर मागूंगा। महाराष्ट्र जैसे प्रदेश को इससे बहुत सारी सुविधाएं मिल रही हैं गैस मिल रही है, उद्योग आ रहे हैं, टैक्स मिल रहा है और एक्साइज़ मिल रही है, बहुत भारी मात्रा में सुविधाएं मिल रही हैं।

श्री प्रमोद महाजनः गैस तो आप जहां के वित्त मन्त्री रहे हैं वहां ले जा रहे हैं।

श्री ब्रह्म दत्तः दूसरा यह है कि आसाम से इसका

कोई सम्बन्ध नहीं है क्योंकि आसाम के चारों तरफ कोई समुद्र भी नहीं है। यह प्रश्न समुद्र का है और तटीय है। अगर महाराष्ट्र में माननीय सदस्य प्रयास करें सौभाग्य हो जमीन से तेल निकल जाए और गैस निकल जाए तो हम सहर्ष रायल्टी देंगे, निश्चित देंगे।

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Sir, I understand that Maharashtra Government's request is based more on equity rather than on the legality. Their contention is based on the consideration that federalism be given stronger orientation whiclris an accepted principle. May I know from the hon. Petroleum Minister whether the Government would like to have the issue examined by the Finance Commission and abide by its recommendations?

Just now the Minister has clarified that the Central Government would pay royalty to the State Governments in regard to gas and oil found onshore. Then, why this distinction is being made in respect of gas and oil offshore?

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I am not competent enough to decide the question of federalism. If this matter is referred to the Finance Commission or any other Commission, I will abide by its report. But I am not in a position to initiate it. Sir, personally I don't find it rational. (*Interruptions)...*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, I am very sorry that the hon. Minister has not given a logical and a rational answer to the various questions. I know his difficulty. But the point is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Member sitting in front of you is guiding you.

SHRI A.G. KULKARNI: I am framing my question. I know that royalty on gas or oil whatever it is has to be shared in a fedral country and actually you should have come with a proposal in this regard. The Chief Ministers of Maharashtra, the present Chief Minister and the previous Chief Minister, have written to him. The previous Chief Minister is the Finance Minister now. So, he can be a little bit more persuasive. There should be no difficulty because he was the Chief Minister and he is now the Finance Minister. A demand has been made and I do demand again that you may please move your Government and please see that the Government refers this matter to the Ninth Finance Commission. We will be given justice and an objective view will be taken by the Ninth Finance Commission. If is not only in Maharashtra. It is in Andhra Pradesh. It is in Gujarat. It is everywhere.

Therefore, I would request that you yourself being a socialist, you may please understand my agony. You were the Finance Minister in Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh is a land-locked State and it has no gas or oil. Here our question is about the gas which is being found in various States, *viz.* Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and other States. This is a new invention and this has to be shared with the State Governments to enable them to increase their resources.

Secondly, I want to know how far Maharashtra is being allowed to take benefit of the "gas, oil, etc. There are fertiliser units in other States. You carry gas from Bombay to U.P. because fertiliser unit is in U.P. What is the logic? What type of logic and what type of rational is this? You will plead here that this is not the reality. I would request you to please allow Maharashtra to utilise more gas for producing energy so that there are more downstream units. In this way, what you call more economic generation will take place. I will specifically ask the hon. Minister to move the Finance Commission to consider it. Secondly, please allow more gas and oil for being used by the downstream units in Maharashtra. *(Interruptions).*

महाराष्ट्र में विदर्भ है या नहीं! वही बात बोल रहा हूं।

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Sir, the gas is going on not without taking Vid-harbha...

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: As far as allowing Maharashtra to consume oil products, especially natural gas, is concerned, we have been very liberal and lot of industries have been allowed to come up. We are examining this thing very sympathetically. Figures can be given. I can pass on the figures to the hon. Member. Regarding the fertiliser plant, fertiliser should be produced in the area where it is consumed.

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: To transport fertiliser is cheaper. (Interruptions)

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI. Transporting fertiliser will be cheaper than producing it in Uttar Pradesh where all the industries have sunk themselves.

श्री शान्ति त्यागी: सभापति जी, यू० पी० ने महाराष्ट्र का क्या बिगाड़ दिया है? **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति: यू० पी०, महाराष्ट्र का सवाल नहीं है। आप बैठें... **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI. Maharashtra is efficient. Please believe us.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: You are Maharashtra. We are only a part of Rashtra**.** You are Maharashtra.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Finance Commission is in the hands of Maharashtra.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I would like **to** tell him**...***(Interruptions)...*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, order him to refer it to the Finance Minister. **All** right, Sir. Come on, Sir. You direct him. As the Chairman of this House, you direct him. You are the Chairman of this House, Sir...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, you kindly tell him that he should refer it to the Finance Minister...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI. Sir, you were the Governor of Maharashtra and you should do justice to *it...(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I want to make a submission...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, kindly direct him...*(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kulkami, I direct you to talk to Shri Shankarao Chavan and Mr. N.K.P. Salve.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, you direct both. Mr. Chavan and Mr. Salve to examine. That is all. That satisfies us, whether it is Maharashtra or Gujarat or Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I want to make a submission, not about this...(/n-*terruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are giving them the figures, the production figures. Can't you give them the figures?...*(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, we are giving them for petro-chemical industries, we are giving them for power and we are giving them for fertilizers... *(Interruptions)* ...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: You are not giving... *(Interruptions)...*

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, I can give him the whole list ___ {"*Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You kindly do one thing....*(Interruptions)...* I tell you, you kindly give them...

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Definitely, Sir... *(Interruptions)...*

MR. CHAIRMAN: ...the figures as to how much you are giving...*(Interruptions)...*

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: So many proposals are pending with the Government of India and we are not asking for anything more...*(Interruptions)...*

DR. BAPU KALDATE: We had asked for power plants on the basis of this at Dhule and Raigad. What exactly

happened to that?...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, he is saying that he has given. What happened to the Dhule and Raigad plants which have been asked for a long time?... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

DR. BAPU KALDATE: What happened to the Dhule and Raigad plants; ...*((Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Sir, my question is this: Are you prepared to refer this to the Finance Commission? Please tell "Yes" or "No". Or, to the Finance Ministry as directed by the Chairman? Sir, you please direct him... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: Sir, this is beyond my competence. But the Maharashtra and the honourable Members can request the Finance Commission and the Union Government to examine it and refer it to anybody...(In*terruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: But he must take the initiative, Sir.*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni,...(In*terruptions)*...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: To whom should we write? To whom, *Sir...(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kulkarni, just a minute. You are a very senior Member of this House. The question that you are directing to the Minister of Petroleum is something which does not come within his purview. So, you are putting questions to somebody who is not competent in that matter. That is why I am all the time telling you to refer to others. Now, I have called Mr. Chaturanan Mishra.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: To whom should we write? Please direct whether we should write to the Finance Commission or the Finance Minister. To whom should we write?... *(Interruptions)*... let him clarify. That is the point.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He does *not* decide. ..*(Interruptions)*...He does not decide what should be referred to the Finance Commission and what should not be referred That is not in his hands ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: I want him to tell us to whom we should refer it... *(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then write to the Prime Minister; that is the simple answer. .. *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: Sir, the Minister says, about the royalty,... (Yn*terruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are also a Presiding Officer and you have to follow the rules. ..*(Interruptions)*... Yes Mr. Mishra.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सभापति महोदय, कुछ देर तो ऐसा लगा कि यह महाराष्ट्र असेम्बली ही है रूलिंग पार्टी की — इसको आपने बना दिया इस सदन का सवाल — इसके लिए आपको धन्यवाद।

अब यह बाम्बे हाई, जो यह नाम पड़ गया है, पहले ही उसका नाम तो भारतीय समुद्र है और उसका मतलब है कि इस देश के पूरे लोगों का समुद्र है। यह नहीं कि वह वहां का हो गया, तो आपका हो गया। तो हम लोग कहां जायेंगे?

श्री सुरेश कालमाड़ी: यह वहीं जा रहा है आपकी तरफ ही जा रहा है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सुनिये, यह हमारी तरफ नहीं जा रहा है, बिहार को नहीं मिल रहा है लेकिन इतने पर भी महाराष्ट्र से तो हम लोग यह उम्मीद करते थे **(व्यवधान)** कि यह ज्यादा उदार होंगे और सारे देश, राजस्थान के बारे में भी सोचेंगे और दूसरे लोगों के बारे में भी सोचेंगे।...**(व्यवधान)**। अब आप सुनिए भी...**(व्यवधान)**

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: आपसे महंगा कोयला लेते हैं और सस्ता गैस देते हैं।

श्री रऊफ वलीउल्लाह: चतुरानन जी, आपसे महंगा कोयला लेते हैं और सस्ता गैस देते हैं...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: सुन लीजिए, सभापति महोदय,

अगर आप इजाजत देते हैं, बिहार स्टील पैदा करता है स्टैंडर्डाइज्ड फ्रेट रेट है और बिहार को आपसे 395 रुपया प्रति टन में हमको ज्यादा प्राइस देना पड़ता है। अगर सरकार की ओर से कोई चैलेंज करे और कुलकर्णी साहब तो बहुत वरिष्ठ सदस्य हैं, इनसे हमको ज्यादा देना पड़ता है, बोकारो में स्टील पैदा करते हैं और 395 रुपया हमको ज्यादा प्राइस देना पड़ता है।...**(व्यवधान)**

श्री सुरेश कलमाडी: कम कराइये, हम मदद करेंगे।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: मदद तो आप वैसे ही कर रहे हैं, जितना हमारा हैड आफिस है बम्बई में है सब का पैसा आप लेते हैं। मदद तो आप काफी कर रहे हैं। टाटा की टिस्को कारखाना बिहार में है, हैड आफिस वहां है।

श्री सभापति: बिहार-महाराष्ट्र छोड़िए, अब आप प्रश्न कीजिए।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: इसलिए हमने आपको धन्यवाद दिया कि आपने महाराष्ट्र असेंबली से बदल करके...**(व्यवधान)**

माननीय सदस्य: बिहार असेंबली में पहुंचा दिया।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: बिहार असेंबली नहीं।...**(व्यवधान)** मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूं, सभापति महोदय, हमारा यह कहना है कि रायल्टी का क्या आधार है, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा। क्योंकि गैस में और आयल में आप वेल्यू के आधार पर रायल्टी देते हैं, कोयला, लोहा और दूसरी खनिज चीजों में आप टनेज़ के आधार पर देते हैं. यह डिसक्रिमिनेटरी पालिसी क्यों है? आप एक ही पालिसी क्यों नहीं रखते हैं कि वह मूल्य के आधार पर हो, सब को मूल्य के आधार पर हो? टनेज के आधार पर हो तो सभी खनिज का यह हो? आप यह अन्याय क्यों करते हैं, यही मैं आपसे जानना चाहता हूं?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: मान्यवर, यह तो एक विचारणीय विषय है, जो माननीय सदस्य ने रखा है। जहां तक तेल और गैस का सवाल है वह वास्तव में हम उसको मूल्य के आधार पर देते हैं। 20 परसेंट तेल पर रायल्टी होता है। मेक्सीमम लिमिट के ऊपर पहुंच गये हैं। बाकी कोयले का कम होता है। तेल का कम होता है, यह तो मैं जवाब देने के लिए अक्षम हूं, क्षमा करेंगे।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: यह कैसे विचारणीय विषय है, इसका क्या मतलब है, सदन विचार करेगा या सरकार?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: प्रत्येक को विचार करना चाहिए, माननीय सदस्य का सुझाव यह है कि जो नीति तेल और गैस के बारे में है वही कोयले और स्टील के बारे में हो तो वह सम्यक् रूप से विचार किया जाना चाहिए।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: ठीक है, सम्यक् का मतलब है कि सरकार भी उसमें शामिल है?

श्री ब्रह्म दत्त: हां, अकेला मैं नहीं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र: अच्छा, ठीक हो गया।

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Sir, the hon. Minister in his reply referred to the Oilfield Development and Regulation Act, under which the royalty is paid every three years. Is it a fact that in the case of Gujarat this three year time has elapsed and whether royalty is to be paid w.e.f. 1st April 1987? If so, would the Government pay immediately the arrears till -today? Part (b) of the question is whether it is also a fact that the entire issue of royalty on crude oil is being examined by a Secretary level committee. If so, has the Secretary level committee submitted a report to the Government? Part (c) of the question is that the Union Government is taking shelter by saying that the royalty is being paid by oil companies...

MR. CHAIRMAN: You put the question.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: I am putting the question. This is a very important question for Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may be very important for Gujarat. But you can put one supplementary; you can't make it five supplementaries.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: You treat it as one supplementary. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I refuse to threat it as one. How can I?

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: The Government is taking shelter that the

royalty is being paid by the oil companies. It is only fixed by the Central Government. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Union Government will fix the royalty now so that Gujarat is not starved of the financial support that it deserves.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have they got offshore oil in Gujarat?

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Yes, on shore.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: He is talking of on-shore, because he cannot claim offshore here.*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, if you like, you may reply. But you are not compelled to.

SHRI BRAHM DUTT: The whole questions of revision of royalty will be decided very soon and we will pay the arrears also if it is enhanced. The question of arrears will arise only if the royalty is enhanced. But the Union Government is not taking shelter under the pretext that royalty is to be paid by the oil companies. It is we who have to decide the royalty. Very soon it will be decided.

Welcome to Parliamentary Delegation from Spain

MR. CHAIRMAN: Honourable Members, I have an announcement to make.

We have with us this morning, seated in the Special Box, members of a Parliamentary Delegation from Spain which is currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His Excellency Mr. Felix Pons Irazazabal, President of the Congress of Deputies of Spain. The other members of the delegation are;

1. Mr. Eduardo Martin Toval 2 Mr. Jose Ramon Caso
3. Mr. Inaki Anasagasti
4. Mr. Carlos Ruiz De Soto On behalf of the members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a very hearty, welcome to the Leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests a very enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between us. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the members of Cortes and the friendly people of Spain.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS— Contd.

Sale of Imported Drugs by IDPL

*63. SHRI P. N. SUKUL:t
DR. (SHRIMATI) SAROJINI MAHISHI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Chavda Committee which was set up by his Ministry recommended that imports for sale should not be resorted to through public sector undertakings engaged in the production of drugs;

(b) what were the other recommendations of the Committee; and

(c) on what basis the IDPL continues to sell imported drugs and appropriating the difference between the sale price and import price in violation of Government decisions in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (e) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir. There was no such recommendation specifically for public Sector.

(b) In brief the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee are as under:—

(i) Sale of canalised bulk drugs

The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri P.N. Sukul.